(a) whether the new Civil Aviation Policy will end the monopoly of public sector oil companies in supply of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) at Indian airports;

(b) whether Government propose to bring in more competition by allowing private sector players to enter the business; and

(c) whether the private sector players will be provided the same infrastructure as available to the public sector players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The Naresh Chandra Committee constituted by the Government to prepare a road map for the civil aviation sector has made the recommendation to allow airlines to source Aviation Turbine Fuel from supplier of their choice. The recommendations of Naresh Chandra Committee are under consideration of the Government.

Expansion of Madurai airport

2177. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress and stage of expansion of Madurai airport in Tamil Nadu for international flights to land;

(b) by when it will be completed and thrown open for use; and

(c) whether Government would consider naming the said airport after the great and highly respected leader "Sri Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar" on its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The work for extension of runway upto the length of 7500 feet to enable operations of wide-bodied AB-320 type of aircraft has begun in January, 2005 and is expected to be completed by July, 2006. There is a plan for construction of an integrated new terminal building for which period of completion is 18 months from the date of award of work.

(c) The proposal to rename the Madurai airport as Sri Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar airport has not been considered favourably because the State Government of Tamil Nadu has taken a policy decision that no

public buildings, places and corporations in Tamil Nadu will be named after any political leaders of past or present.

Expansion of Bangalore Airport's International Departure Lounge

2178. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether renovation, expansion and refurbishing of Bangalore Airport's international departure lounge is long overdue, due to sudden spurt in traffic volume;

(b) whether a revenue of around Rs 1.50 crores is generated presently by sale of entry tickets to international departure lounge at Bangalore; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider undertaking the expansion/ renovation plans for international departure lounge estimated to cost around Rs. 1.60 crores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Due to recent spurt in traffic volume, renovation and modification of international departure lounge is considered necessary.

(b) Revenue of Rs. 1.72 crores per annum is generated presently by sale of entry tickets at Bangalore Airport.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) is already examining the structural feasibility of expansion and renovation of the existing international departure lounge. The project is in the planning stage and hence cost estimate has not been worked out.

Cancellation to flights between Delhi and Vishakhapatnam

2179. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that flights between Vishakhapatnam and Delhi were discontinued suddenly;

(b) if so, the reasons for such stoppage of flights between Vishakhapatnam and Delhi and other cities,

(c) whether adequate notice is given to passengers who have booked their seats much in advance;